## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

- 1. (Canceled).
- 2. (Canceled).
- 3. (Canceled).
- 4. (Canceled).
- 5. (Canceled).
- 6. (Canceled.)
- 7. (Canceled).
- 8. (Canceled).
- 9. (Canceled).
- 10. (Canceled).
- 11. (Canceled).
- 12. (Canceled).
- 13. (Canceled).
- 14. (Canceled).
- 15. (Canceled).
- 16. (Canceled).

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17. (Previously presented) An isolated estrogen receptor- $\beta$  comprising the sequence depicted in Figure 4, SEQ ID. NO:2.

- 18. (Canceled).
- 19. (Previously presented) A method for identifying hER $\beta$ -interactive compounds, said method comprising:
- (a) contacting the polypeptide of claim 17 with a labeled ligand in the presence of test compounds, to form test reactions, and in the absence of test compounds, to form control reactions;
- (b) incubating said test and control reactions under appropriate conditions to achieve equilibrium binding of said labeled ligand to hER $\beta$ ;
- (c) determining the level of binding of said labeled ligand to hER $\beta$  in said test and control cultures; and
- (d) identifying as a hER $\beta$ -interactive compound any compound that reduces the binding of said labeled ligand to hER $\beta$ .
  - 20. (Original) A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said ligand is  $17-\beta$  estradiol.
- 21. (Original) A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said hER $\beta$ -interactive compound is an agonist.
- 22. (Original) A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said hER $\beta$ -interactive compound is an antagonist.
  - 23. (Canceled).
  - 24. (Canceled).

36. (Canceled).

37. (Canceled).

38. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 17, wherein the polypeptide is chemically synthesized.

39. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 17, wherein the polypeptide is produced in a recombinant system.

- 40. (Canceled).
- 41. (Canceled).